

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 04466 181003Z

44

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-10 JUSE-00 NSAE-00

SNM-02 SY-05 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-03 OMB-01

DODE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 /054 W

----- 098491

R 180928Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1723

INFO DEA HEADQUARTERS

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 4466

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, TH

SUBJ: ESCAPE OF LT. COL. SAWAI

REF: CHIANG MAI 067

1. EMBASSY OFFICER CONTACTED POLICE MAJOR GENERAL PHAO SARASIN, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE CENTRAL NARCOTICS BOARD, MARCH 17 REGARDING THE ESCAPE FROM CUSTODY OF LT. COL. SAWAI, SUSPECT IN CHIANG MAI HEROIN REFINERY CASE. PHAO WAS OBVIOUSLY EMBARRASSED BUT WAS UNABLE TO SUPPLY ANY FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE INCIDENT.

2. PHAO STATED THAT DURING CONVERSATIONS WITH POLICE OFFICERS SINCE HIS ARREST JULY 11, 1974 SAWAI HAD "INFORMALLY CONFESSED" TO HAVING PREPARED THREE BATCHES OF HEROIN ON HIS PROPERTY IN CHAING MAI HAD CAUSED TO BE TRANSPORTED TO THE US ONE CONSIGNMENT OF HEROIN. SAWAI ALLEGED THAT NO BUYER HAD BEEN FOUND FOR THIS CONSIGNMENT AND IT HAD BEEN BROUGHT BACK TO THAILAND. PHAO COMMENTED THAT SUCH AN "INFORMAL CONFESSION" COULD NOT BE USED IN A COURT OF LAW, BUT THAT HE BELIEVED THE EVIDENCE FOUND ON THE HEROIN REFINERY SITE SUFFICIENT

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PAGE 02 BANGKO 04466 181003Z

TO CONVICT SAWAI.

3. REFTEL IS BEING REPEATED TO SECSTATE.  
MASTERS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** HEROIN, FUGITIVES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 MAR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975BANGKO04466  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750094-0127  
**From:** BANGKOK  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750342/aaaablku.tel  
**Line Count:** 64  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 CHIANG MAI 067  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 24 JUL 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <24 JUL 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <20 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>  
**Review Markings:**

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EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ESCAPE OF LT. COL. SAWAI  
**TAGS:** SNAR, TH, (SAWAI PUTTARAK)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006